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GETTYSBURG, PA.

MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 28, 1861.

A naval officer left Washington several days ago for Fort Pickens, with such instructions as may prevent a collision with the federal authorities.

A dispatch has been received from Governor Pickens in which he says that the best understanding exists between Major Anderson and the South Carolina authorities, and that there is no apprehension of immediate hostilities.

### A Republican at Work.

Cassius M. Clay, the leading Republican of Kentucky, visited Washington last week on a peace mission. The correspondent of the *Press* says:

Mr. Clay, who occupies the highest position in the Republican party, on account of his fearless support of their principles in a slave State, and who stood by Mr. Lincoln during all the late exciting campaign, openly avows that it is the duty of the Republicans to settle the question now, by force of arms, and to overthrow the Republic. He says that the border slave States must be saved; that they are too full of good friends of the Union to be sacrificed, and that for his own part he conceives it to be his duty, and the duty of the organization of which he is a member, to make every possible sacrifice consistent with honor to rescue the Government from the men who are now seeking its destruction. As I write he is surrounded with a number of the leading men of the Republican party, appealing to them with eloquence and energy to do their duty in the crisis.

A letter from Gen. Leslie Combs, who carried Kentucky against the Democrats last fall by a large plurality, addressed to Horace Greely, says:

"The slave and territorial questions must now—now—be settled on fair and Constitutional grounds of Kentucky—old Kentucky, the land of soldiers and patriots—will be forced into revolution. Ninety-nine out of every hundred men in Kentucky demand this easy solution of our troubles. Without this we can take care of the South; without it there will be civil war—war—and blood, and desolation."

A correspondent of the New York Post shows that a division of the Territories between the North and the South, by the line of 36 deg. 30 min., would give to each a quantity very nearly in proportion to the respective populations of the free and slave States, viz: to the free States, 1,795,963 square miles for a population of 19,000,000; and to the slave States, 1,233,711 square miles for a population of 12,000,000.

These respective amounts, viz: 19,000,000 for the free States, and 12,000,000 for the slave States, will vary but very little from the true sums. This division would involve no sacrifice of principle on the part of the Republicans, inasmuch as New Mexico and the Indian Territory are in fact now slave Territories.

The Republicans of the House, at Harrisburg, favorable to the repeal of the obnoxious provisions in the penal code relative to the rendition of slaves, held a caucus on Tuesday, when twenty-four were present. It is reported that their vote, combined with the Democratic vote, will carry the repeal of these obnoxious laws through the House. A speech was made by Mr. Armstrong, Republican, in the House, favoring the adoption of Mr. Crittenden's amendments to the constitution. It produced a powerful effect. It was the best effort of the session in either House. He denied that the day of compromise is past; all legislation is a compromise. He contended that the Republican party, in this emergency, was not bound by its Chicago platform. He was a Republican, but his constituents would endorse his course. On this question he was above all platforms, all party considerations. He had the love of his country alone at heart.

The Senate of Rhode Island, on Tuesday, repealed the personal liberty bill, by a vote of 21 to 9. This subject was warmly discussed in the House, and finally was postponed to Thursday.

In the Kentucky Legislature on Monday the House passed, by a vote of 87 against 6, a series of resolutions declaring in view of the men and money tendered by several of the Northern States to the general government, that the people of Kentucky, uniting with their brethren of the South, will resist such invasion of the soil of the South at all hazards and to the last extremity.

Alabama having formally seceded from the Union, it is not doubted that Justice Campbell, of the Supreme Court of the United States, will resign his seat. This is to be deplored. He is a strong Union man, but believes that he should follow his State.

The message of the Governor of Louisiana to the Legislature is uncompromising in its tone. He is in favor of secession, the North having contemptuously rejected the propositions of moderate men.

The candidate of the Republicans for Mayor in Boston, so ingloriously defeated, recently, was one of the City Council in 1850 that refused to open the doors of Faneuil Hall to Daniel Webster when he desired to give his reasons for supporting the compromise measures of that year. Free speech, they believed, was only tolerable when it was upon their side. Mr. Moses Kimball has waited ten years, and has at last received a scathing rebuke for the indignity he helped to heap upon the great Massachusetts statesman. Justice is sometimes slow, but it is almost always sure.

In the House, at Harrisburg, on Monday, Mr. Harper presented the following, which was passed:

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire whether a more effectual mode of ascertaining the amount of moneys in the hands of bankers, brokers and individuals, now not returned under the laws of this Commonwealth, cannot be devised.

Henry D. Moore, of Philadelphia, was on Monday last, elected State Treasurer by the Legislature.

### CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Monday, Mr. Clay, of Alabama, read a communication announcing the withdrawal of the Senators from his State, in consequence of the secession ordinance having been passed by the Convention. Mr. Yates, of Florida, said that in consequence of information authentically communicated to his colleagues and himself, he deemed it proper to announce to the Senate their connection with that body had come to an end. The State of Florida, in convention duly assembled, had seen fit to recall the powers delegated to the Union and assume the responsibilities of a separate government. He was sure that the people of Florida would never be insensible to the blessings and advantages of the Union when directed to the purposes of establishing justice and domestic tranquility and safety. He would also hold in grateful memory the early history of the Union, but she had decided that her civil and social safety were jeopardized by a longer continuance in the Union. The valiant speech of Col. Davis, of Mississippi, was truly affecting—particularly that part of it relating to our flag. When he said that if circumstances should render it necessary for him to follow some other flag than the good old flag of the Union, which he had followed and defended on the battle-field, he should always respect and remember it. He would fold it up and carefully preserve it in a place of safety as a sacred relic and fond memento of other and better days.

As the Senators from Florida, Alabama and Mississippi were about to retire from the Senate, all the Democratic Senators crowded around them and shook hands with them. Messrs. Hale and Cameron were the only Republican Senators that did so. The House bill for the admission of Kansas as a State came up, and, after being amended so as to make the new State a judicial district, was passed by a vote of 36, says 16. The House will no doubt concur in the amendment.

The resolutions of Mr. Crittenden were then taken up, when Mr. Bigler, of Pa., made a conservative speech, in which he took strong ground in favor of the resolutions. He argued that coercion was impracticable. He deprecated civil war as unnecessary.

Mr. Cameron, of Pa., (Republican,) was ready to do anything to prevent a separation of this Union, and would sustain the proposition of his colleague. When asked whether he favored coercion, Mr. Cameron replied that it was a bad remedy, and he did not know that he would ever be willing to resort to it.

No vote taken.

Mr. Corwin, of Ohio, (Republican,) made a lengthy speech. Whilst absolving the Republican party from blame, he said he did not believe that a seceding State could march upon by an armed force, in order to enforce laws, provided that policy would endanger the peace and disturb the tranquility of that State and that political organization. He did not know much about human philosophy, nor did he care about it, but he did know something about legal philosophy, and he called slaves property. They were property.

In the House, Mr. Florence presented a memorial from Philadelphia, signed by citizens of all parties, including many who voted for Mr. Lincoln, asking the adjustment of the national difficulties on the Crittenden plan. Laid on the table.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter signed by the Alabama delegation withdrawing from further participation in the deliberations of the House in consequence of the decision of that State.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Seward presented a memorial signed by several thousand citizens of New York in favor of compromise and concession.

Mr. Saulsbury presented the resolutions of the State of Delaware, directing her Senators and Representatives to use their best efforts for the passage of the Crittenden resolutions, or some other means of preserving the Union. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Bigler presented petitions asking the passage of Mr. Crittenden's resolutions. Also the proceedings of several meetings in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Powell, of Ky., made an able speech in favor of Mr. Crittenden's resolutions.

In the House, Mr. Whiteley presented a memorial and certain resolutions from the State of Delaware relative to the present difficulties, and praying the prompt action of Congress thereon.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland, presented a series of resolutions, signed by 17,000 citizens of Maryland, praying Congress to adopt prompt measures for the settlement of existing difficulties, on the basis of the border State resolutions.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, (Republican,) denounced secession in unmeasured terms. He was opposed to the repeal of the personal liberty bills.

Mr. Clements, of Va., was against secession, but would vote for the Crittenden resolutions.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Bigler presented several memorials favoring the Crittenden amendments.

Mr. Cameron moved to postpone Mr. Crittenden's resolutions, and take up the tariff bill.

Mr. Crittenden hoped not.

Mr. Hale wished to know whether the tariff bill had been examined in detail by the committee on finance.

Mr. Fessenden said no.

Mr. Hale said this bill affected the interests of his constituents, and unless carefully examined he could not vote for it, party or no party.

Mr. Crittenden's resolutions were then postponed, says 27, says 21, and the tariff and treasury note bill was taken up.

Mr. Simmons moved to refer the bill to a select committee of five, with instructions to report at this day a week. Agreed to.

Mr. Bigler now moved to take up the resolutions of Mr. Crittenden. Lost by yeas 21, says 27—Mr. Cameron voting with the negative, notwithstanding his repeated declarations for compromise. This is to be regretted.

The Pacific Railroad bill was then debated. Certain names were presented for corporations. Mr. Green suggested the insertion of the names of two eminent underground railroad men—John Brown, Jr., and Wendell Phillips. [Great laughter.]

In the House, Mr. Etheridge, of Tenn., made a speech. He would not court praise or avoid censure. He felt that the interest of thirty million of people and freemen were represented upon this floor, and that by only two hundred and thirty-six

men, and part of those were attempting to inaugurate revolution. In this the course to be pursued by this Congress to stay the tide of revolution, and will there be left no hope for a free people? If the constitution could only get a night of their representatives early in the morning, before they had got hold of the New York Tribune on the one side, and the New York Herald on the other, never, never would they trust two hundred and thirty-six such men, or trust the interests of this country in their hands. As well take three hundred hackmen from the city of New York.

He would do and vote for anything—he would vote for the Crittenden proposition or the report of the border State committee. It had been said that the different sections hated each other. Would it be any better if they were in two confederacies? No. It would be ten times worse.

Mr. Leake, of Virginia, would ask the gentleman which side he was on?

Mr. Etheridge said he was advocating a cause which had but few friends on that floor, and that was the cause of his country. [Great applause in the galleries and on the floor of the House.]

Mr. Lovejoy obtained the floor, advocating the most extreme Northern principles. He appealed to his Republican friends to stand firm and decided, and not part with the golden opportunity they now possess to carry out their principles. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. [Laughter.]

Some of them were looking to Mr. Lincoln for compromise. From his soul he did not believe that Mr. Lincoln was so disposed, but would stand by the principles enunciated in the Chicago platform. If he or an angel from Heaven proclaimed any other doctrine, let him be anathematized. Let him be accursed and the people curse him. [Laughter.]

Mr. Montgomery, of Pennsylvania, said he had a proposition to make. As an adjustment of the present difficulties was impossible with the present members, owing to their various views, and from the opinions expressed it was apparent that some were not disposed to yield, he therefore proposed that every member resign his place, and let the people have another election before the fourth of March. [Cries of "Agreed."]

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, asked his colleague whether his successor had not been elected?

Mr. Montgomery replied. I mean an election for the present, and not for the next Congress.

Mr. M. Therson, of Pennsylvania, remarked that it had been said that we are in the midst of a revolution, but he thought we were in the presence of a conspiracy, and the blow comes from those who admit that long ago they laid the plan, and carefully prepared the means for its accomplishment. In alluding to the history of events in this connection, he said that Cabinet officers had used the machinery of the Government for their nefarious purposes, and even the House and Senate Chamber had not escaped. He characterized the movement as despotic, originating in disappointed personal ambition and nurtured in iniquity.

In reviewing the progress of events, he said one thing was certain—the Union was not to be destroyed, for the people would maintain it. Instead of abusing the Administration, Mr. McPherson had better, for his own sake, devote himself to measures calculated to save the country from civil war and ruin.

In the Senate, on Thursday, Mr. Crittenden rose to a personal explanation. In violation of the rule of the Senate, a spurious report had been sent abroad of what he had said in a secret session of the Senate. He entirely disavowed the report. He had never read it, nor would he do so. He had been informed that he was charged with favoring coercion. It was not true. He had said that, in his judgment, Congress had the power to use force to enforce the laws, and it might be exercised.

The District of Columbia might undertake to resume her sovereignty, and no one would say that that should be permitted. He had, however, expressly said that now was not the time to speak of coercion. He now moved that the Pacific railroad bill and all other prior orders be postponed, in order to take up his resolutions.

Mr. Lane said he was in favor of a Pacific railroad, but it was of no use to vote for a road until the pending difficulties should be adjusted.

The yeas and nays being ordered, the motion of Mr. Crittenden was disagreed to, yeas 20, says 26.

The vote is about the same as on Wednesday, the Republicans, with Gwin and Latham, of California, voting in the negative.

In the House, a warm discussion sprang up, on the troubles of the country, between Mr. Dunn, of Indiana, and Mr. Rust, of Arkansas, out of which it was thought a duel would grow, the latter having challenged the former.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in his letter of Wednesday, says:

"So little chance is there in the Senate for the passage of the Crittenden resolutions of adjustment, or of Mr. Bigler's substitute for the same, that they are dropped for the present."

God save the country!

A great Union meeting was held at Trenton, New Jersey, on Monday evening. Resolutions were adopted deploring the state of the country, and recommending, as a means of settling the difficulties, the adoption, by the people, of the Crittenden resolutions, or some other pacific measures, with such modifications as may be deemed necessary. They also recommended the Legislature of New Jersey to pass a law authorizing a vote to be taken by the people on the Crittenden resolutions. They approve of the course of the Virginia Legislature in appointing a commissioner to go to Washington, and recommend the New Jersey Legislature to do the same.

Gov. Letcher, of Virginia, on Tuesday, communicated to the Legislature the coercion resolutions of the Legislature of Ohio, with a message, in which he says that such resolutions sent to the slaveholding States have no other effect than to excite resentments, influence prejudices, increase the difficulties, and embarrass, if not defeat, all the efforts now being made to adjust the controversy.

The Convention of Georgia has passed an ordinance against the African slave trade.

### IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

Hon. Ellis Lewis, James Campbell, W. B. Reed, Henry M. Phillips, William E. Lehman, James Page, C. McKibbin, B. H. Brewster, Samuel Shepley, V. L. Bradford, J. Hamilton, Owen Jones, Robert Tyler, W. L. Hirst, C. J. Ingersoll, Josiah Randall, Horace B. Kneass, and other prominent gentlemen, have addressed a letter to Hon. Wm. H. Webb, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, in which, after stating that "the constitutional organization of the great State of Pennsylvania is most unhappily in the temporary possession of a minority, who abuse their power to misrepresent the inclinations and earnest wishes of our people, which are, beyond all doubt, to restore peace and harmony by conciliating our Southern brethren by those concessions so justly due," request him to call together the State Central Committee at an early day, with a view to calling a State Convention. Mr. Webb replies, concurring in the views of those gentlemen, and expressing the belief that "if the voice of reason be heard in reference to the perils surrounding our Confederacy, it will give a powerful and overwhelming expression in favor of conciliation and compromise." He, therefore, issues a call for a meeting of the Committee, at Harrisburg, on Wednesday next, at 3 o'clock.

### Union Meeting in Pittsburgh Dispersed by the Police.

A meeting of citizens had been called in Pittsburgh, for Saturday night week, to express their convictions upon the state of the Union, and to consider the best means of preserving it. On the morning of that day, inflammatory appeals appeared in the Pittsburgh Republican papers, urging Republicans to be at the meeting, and to refuse all concession or compromise. Obedient to the summons, the Wide Awake rabble were there, and so conducted themselves that nobody could be heard. Finally the uproar became so great that, by the direction of the Mayor, the Police cleared the house, and thus ended the most disgraceful exhibition of partisan rowdiness that has been known for years in that city.

### Letter from Ex-President Fillmore.

The Hon. Millard Fillmore was, a few weeks ago, suggested by a Union meeting in New York, as a suitable person to go to South Carolina to tender the people of that State the assurances of the citizens of New York that the North would respect and uphold the constitutional rights of the South. This mission Mr. Fillmore declined, and in his letter remarked:

"What they want, and what I want, is some assurance from the Republican party, now dominant at the North, that they are at least the conservative portion of them, are ready and willing to come forward and repeal unconstitutional State laws; live up to the compromises of the constitution, execute the laws of Congress promptly and faithfully, and treat our Southern brethren as friends. When I can have any such reliable assurance as this to give, I will go most cheerfully and urge our Southern brethren to follow our example, and restore harmony and fraternal affection between the North and South. At present, our labors should be here. Let us put ourselves right, and then we can with more confidence and justice appeal to them."

### Virginia as a Mediator.

We have seen nothing recently which more clearly indicates the position of the border States than the following resolution, passed unanimously by the Legislature of Virginia:

Resolved, That if all efforts to reconcile the unhappy differences between the two dominant at the North, that they or at least the conservative portion of them, are ready and willing to come forward and repeal unconstitutional State laws; live up to the compromises of the constitution, execute the laws of Congress promptly and faithfully, and treat our Southern brethren as friends. When I can have any such reliable assurance as this to give, I will go most cheerfully and urge our Southern brethren to follow our example, and restore harmony and fraternal affection between the North and South. At present, our labors should be here. Let us put ourselves right, and then we can with more confidence and justice appeal to them."

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